GSLIS Receives Two Notable Grants

By Allyson Irish ’04GS

Establishing itself as a leader in training a new generation of Vietnamese librarians, the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) this past fall received a three-year, $1.8 million grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies. The funding, which is the largest private foundation grant ever received by Simmons, will be used to extend the school’s successful library education program in Vietnam.

“Receiving this grant is one of my proudest moments at Simmons,” said Dean Michèle Cloonan. “This program has made — and will continue to make — an important difference in the field of library and information science in Vietnam, and shows that Simmons truly is making a difference in the world.”

GSLIS launched its Vietnam program in 1994 in collaboration with, and with funding from, the Harvard-Yenching Institute. Since then, GSLIS has educated 30 Vietnamese librarians who now hold important positions in libraries across their country.

The Atlantic Philanthropies grant will enable an additional 25 Vietnamese librarians to earn GSLIS degrees, studying both at Simmons and in Vietnam.

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Alumni Association President Promotes Agenda, Internet

By Kristin Howley

Millie Gonzalez ’00SM, ’03LS has spent a lot of time at Simmons. An alumna of both the School of Management and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), Gonzalez has deepened her Simmons connection as president of the GSLIS Alumni Association.

In addition to her part-time job as a content analyst for Cymfony, Inc., a software company based in Watertown, Mass., Gonzalez also is a reference librarian at Framingham State College. So how did this already busy alumna become president of the board?

Gonzalez says her involvement started when she was a GSLIS student and president of the student chapter of Boston’s Special Libraries Association. “I enjoyed creating programs for students and working on a team to execute the year’s activities,” she said. So it seemed a natural transition for Gonzalez to move into her current position.

When Gonzalez became president in 2005, she and the new board hit the ground running. Gonzalez came to the first meeting armed with a theme for the year: “Let’s Have an Impact.” And that is exactly what they have done.

One of the top priorities for Gonzalez and the board was to revamp GSLIS content on Alumnet, Simmons’s website for all alumnae/i. The site has up-to-date news, pictures, volunteer opportunities, employment links, messages from the dean and alumni association, and an alumni benefits

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At a time of great challenge for libraries and librarians, one of the most critical needs in our profession is to nurture leadership. But what is leadership? And can LIS programs do more to foster future leaders?

Warren Bennis, a professor of business administration and widely considered a thought leader on leadership and change, suggests that “leaders are people who do the right things and managers are people who do things right.” Bennis draws a few more comparisons: “the manager administers, the leader innovates; the manager maintains, the leader develops; the manager has her eye on the bottom line; the leader has her eye on the horizon…” and that “failing organizations almost always fail because they’re over managed and they’re under-led.”

With Bennis in mind, I recently read papers for an assignment in the “LIS Principles of Management” course. The 26 students each interviewed three library directors to learn about management styles. The librarians in this unscholarly sample seemed, almost to a person, to be thoughtful and savvy managers. Many described themselves as “accidental managers.” Although it was not part of the assignment, I wondered whether any of the managers aspired to be leaders.

It was interesting to compare the students’ reports with interviews and surveys that Professor Peter Hernon and his colleagues undertook for their recent book *The Next Library Leadership: Attributes of Academic and Public Library Directors*.

Some of the leadership traits that emerged from Hernon’s study with Ronald Powell and Arthur Young were the ability to build a shared mission for a library, to foster participatory management, to be innovative and risk taking, to have and communicate ethics and values, to build community relationships, and to possess a sense of humor.

After reading the student papers and the study, I kept asking myself: “How do accidental managers become leaders?” Preparing students for leadership goes beyond requiring them to take a management course. We need to find ways for students to practice leadership while they are still in the program. One way is through student organizations. But there are other ways as well, and the profession will become richer if educators find ways to foster managerial growth. Shouldn’t we help accidental library managers become purposeful leaders?

Our Graduate School of Library and Information Science recently has taken some first steps to address this challenge. With the support of a multi-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, we are developing a Ph.D. in Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions. (See related story on page 1.) This flexible, innovative program will nurture and strengthen management and leadership abilities, actively involve distinguished practitioners, and generate rigorous research to improve the knowledge base and practice of managerial leadership.

Creating a new generation of leaders in the field of library and information science certainly will not happen overnight. But I am confident that this new program will lay a strong foundation to address the current and future needs of our students and alumni.

Michele Y. O’Driscoll

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Want to find out about exciting Simmons events, track down an old classmate, or view photos of recent alumnae/i gatherings? All of these benefits are just a mouse-click away.

When you register online at alumnet.simmons.edu and update your email address, you will have access to:

- Up-to-date alumnae/i news and information
- *Click & Connect*, Alumnet’s quarterly e-newsletter, sent to your e-mail address
- Online class notes
- A current alumnae/i directory with photographs
- Online registration for events
- Mini-websites for class and affiliation pages
- Alumnae/i message boards
- And much, much more!
Associate Professor Jeannette Bastian gave a keynote address at the International Conference on the History of Archives and Records at the University of Amsterdam in September. Her presentation was entitled "Reading Colonial Records Through an Archival Lens: The Provenance of Place, Space, and Creation."

Two adjunct faculty members recently traveled to Iraq as part of a GSLIS program created to train Iraqi library, archive, and information professionals. Cynthia Cheng Correia ’96LS and Harvey Varnet ’71LS, along with GSLIS Dean Michèle Cloonan and Professor Pat Oyler ’77SM, spent time this past summer as part of a group of American and British interpreters, librarians, and professors who taught Iraqis library science courses and updated library science techniques. The trip was part of a two-year GSLIS project to provide training for Iraqi librarians and archivists, to aid in modernizing Iraqi libraries, and help address the country’s serious shortage of librarians. The project is a joint venture of GSLIS and the Harvard University library system.

Professor Ching-chih Chen has been appointed consultant to the China Digital Library Project, led by the National Library of China, and the Palace Museum at the Forbidden City. She also delivered two speeches on the latest development of Global Memory Net at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and the National Agricultural Library in Silver Spring, MD.

Dean Michèle Cloonan was referenced in an August Boston Sunday Globe editorial about the librarian shortage, which touted GSLIS’s new Ph.D. program in managerial leadership that will help fill the need. In October, Cloonan gave a lecture on GSLIS’s Iraqi librarian initiative to the Cecil County Public Library in Delaware.

Daniel N. Joudrey, an expert in organizing information, has joined GSLIS as an assistant professor. He will teach courses on cataloging and classification. Previously a metadata policy intern at the Library of Congress and a teaching fellow and research assistant at the University of Pittsburgh, Joudrey assisted in the writing of the forthcoming third edition of The Organization of Information. Joudrey received his master’s degree and Ph.D. in library science from the University of Pittsburgh, and his B.A. from George Washington University.

Martha R. Mahard ’88LS, ’93LSD is a visiting assistant professor at GSLIS, teaching photographic archives and photographic preservation. Mahard has more than three decades of professional experience with the Harvard College Library System, including work in photography and visual collections at the fine arts library and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She has written numerous publications and presentations on photographic archives and visual information.

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Michèle V. Cloonan

Executive Director of Alumnae/i Relations
Lorita Williams

Associate Director of Alumnae/i Relations
Jan Taylor

Administrative Manager
Anne Reid ’00LS

Assistant Dean for Admission & Recruitment
Denise Davis ’99LS

LISSA President
Kate Warren ’06LS
section. The board also planned a fall networking lunch for current students to meet with alumni; participated in the GSLIS phonathon to raise funds for Simmons; and donated books for a prison book drive in December.

“Last term, we accomplished many things,” said Gonzalez, who acknowledged the work of Anne Reid ’00LS, GSLIS administrative manager; and Lorita Williams and Julie Candiello in the Office of Alumnae/i Relations. “I thought we would be slowing down, but not with this board!”

This year, the board plans to create a mentoring event and work on the 2006 Alumni Day, “Breaking the Librarian Paradigm: Tearing Down Self-Imposed Boundaries,” which will feature keynote speakers James

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F. Williams II, dean of libraries at the University of Colorado at Boulder; and Jessica McWade, president of the McWade Group. Gonzalez also is proud of the new GSLIS blog launched this winter.

“With this blog, we hope to create a community where GSLIS alums and library/information professionals from all over the world can introduce themselves, talk about their experiences, write about what motivates them, and ask for advice.” (visit blog at gslisalum.typepad.com)

You might think that Gonzalez and the board would take a break after spearheading so many new endeavors in the past year, but the board is looking forward to even more planning and events.

“I relish the opportunity to continue my relationship with Simmons, and to come up with a vision that will continue to guide our programming, and inspire and challenge our board members and alumnas/i.”

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Graduate students got a taste of the vast need for information and resources in this Central American country as a group traveled to Nicaragua this past year to help promote a network of lending libraries. During their trip, students brought with them information about a new cataloging system to help library patrons of all ages access resources more easily and efficiently.

“The trip was remarkable in so many different ways,” said Denise Davis ’99LS, GSLIS assistant dean. “I am proud of our students for taking the initiative to make a difference in the library world, and I am pleased to see how the experience has broadened their perspectives.”

Last year, students Mimi Kolosseus and Carla Magenheimer, and GSLIS professors Sergio Chaparro Univazo and Pat Oyler ’77SM, decided to form Simmons International Relations for librarians (SIR). The purpose of SIR is to build a communications network between people interested in international librarianship in order to provide volunteer, internship, and work opportunities for GSLIS students and alumni.

As an outgrowth of SIR, Davis arranged the first trip to Nicaragua in August with six GSLIS students to work with library pioneer Jane Mirandette. Dubbed “Library Jane,” Mirandette established Nicaragua’s first lending library in 2001 and is the driving force behind a movement to establish a national system of lending libraries.

During their visit, GSLIS students taught book repair and cataloging to librarians, rode a bookmobile to nearby schools, and volunteered at the library for the blind in Managua.

More Online
To read blogs from their Nicaragua trip, visit http://nicaragua.typepad.com/my_weblog/. To read more about the Biblioteca San Juan del Sur and Jane Mirandette, visit http://www.sanjuandelsur.org.ni/community/library.html. To learn more about the Simmons International Relations for librarians group, visit http://web.simmons.edu/~sir.

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www.simmons.edu/gslis
Martha Fenn ’55LS retired last June from the Brattleboro (VT) Memorial Hospital Library after 35 years of service.


Ernest DiMattia, Jr. ’65LS recently was appointed to the Simmons College Corporation. He is president and CEO of the Ferguson Library in Stamford, CT. DiMattia has been actively involved in professional library associations all over the world, and currently is an adjunct professor at Simmons and Pratt Institute.

Margaret Howe-Soper ’65LS has been named director of the South Hadley Public Library in South Hadley, MA.

Cynthia Stichman ’70LS, children’s librarian at the Parsippany-Troy Hills Free Public Library in NJ, was featured in a May 2005 article in the Star-Ledger about the monthly Read-to-a-Dog program held in the basement of the library. The program features children who are encouraged to read aloud to trained animals.

Jeanne Munn Bracken ’71LS recently was named a New York Times Librarian of the Year; 25 librarians were selected from 1,200 nominations. Bracken, a reference librarian at the Lincoln (MA) Public Library, was one of two librarians chosen from the Northeast. She also recently self-published a collection of her columns, which is available at www.jeannemunnbracken.com.


Susan Ackerman ’73LS recently joined Phillips, DiPisa & Associates, a Hingham (MA) executive search firm, as an associate and member of the senior management team. Ackerman will help to develop and implement effective search and selection strategies for the healthcare industry. Previously, Ackerman was a vice president at Wellington Management Company, where she was responsible for recruiting investment professionals.

The U.S. Senate recently confirmed Jan Garnett Cellucci ’74LS, ’01HD to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS). Cellucci is one of three new commissioners for the NCLIS. Prior to this post, Cellucci served at the Embassy of the United States of America, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada as advocate for the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.

Dodie Gaudet ’76LS is bibliographic and technical services consultant for the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System.

Norman Desmarais ’77LS, an active historical re-enactor, recently published Battlegrounds of Freedom: A Historical Guide to the Battlefields of the War of American Independence (Busca, Inc. 2005). The book is a travelogue through the battles of the Revolutionary War. Desmarais is acquisitions librarian at Providence College’s Phillips Memorial Library in RI.

Marilyn Dunn ’78LS was named executive director of the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study in Cambridge, MA.

Lorraine Kent Faison ’82LS recently was named director for the Kent Memorial Library in Kent, CT. Faison’s former posts include director of the New Milford Public Library, head of the

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Hotchkiss Library in Sharon, MA, and director of school library programs at prep schools and colleges in CT, NY, and MA.


Jo Cates ’84LS has been promoted to associate vice president for academic research and dean of the Library at Columbia College Chicago. In this role, Cates will have responsibility for the academic research units, including the Center for Black Music Research, the Center for Arts Policy, the Center for Asian Arts and Media, and the Museum of Contemporary Photography. Cates joined Columbia College Chicago in 2001 as director of the library, and was appointed dean of the library in 2004. She is the author of Journalism: A Guide to the Reference Literature, Third Edition (Libraries Unlimited, 2004).

Adjunct Professor Amy Lucker ’84LS recently presented two papers at the Art Libraries Society annual conference in Houston. The papers were: “Sharing the Bridge: From Analog to Digital Without Falling In,” and “It’s All About Access: Recasting the Role of the Cataloger.”

The archivist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO), Bridget Carr ’85LS recently was featured in the Boston Sunday Globe. The article showed how Carr is displaying historical objects for the BSO’s 125th anniversary.

Cynthia Childrey ’87LS has been selected as dean of Cline Library at Northern Arizona University. Childrey has been at Cline since 1990, when she joined as senior staff librarian. Previously, Childrey served as the management and economics bibliographer at Boston University’s Mugar Memorial Library.

Pimuxtapai Premsmist ’87LS, ’90LSD is director of the Center of Academic Resources in the main university library at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Steven Riel ’87LS recently was named the 2005 Robert Fraser Distinguished Visiting Poet by Bucks County (PA) Community College.

Richard Callaghan ’89LS is director of Bedford (MA) Public Library.

After six years as the head of systems at the University of New Hampshire, David Berona ’90LS recently accepted the position of library director of the Lamson Library at Plymouth State University.

Doctoral student Rosita Hopper ’90LS recently was named director of libraries at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI.

Dorothy Lockaby ’90LS received the summer 2005 Outstanding Supervisor Award at the Johnson Center Library at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Lockaby is the coordinator of the Johnson Center Reference and Instruction Department.

Peter Carini ’92LS recently was interviewed in the Dartmouth College alumni magazine in an article entitled “The Archivist.” In it, Carini discusses the life of an archivist, as well as the impressive 39,000 linear feet of material kept in Dartmouth’s archives.

Rhonda Gonzales ’93LS recently was appointed dean of the Library at Colorado State University in Pueblo, CO.

Nanni Deng ’94LS is the Asian art bibliographer at the Fine Arts Library of the Harvard College Library. She moved back to the Boston area from Cleveland, where she held a similar position at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Kelly Smith ’97LS recently accepted a position at Eastern Kentucky University Libraries in Richmond, KY, as serials and electronic resources librarian.


Danguole Budris ’99LS recently accepted a position as director of Oak Bluffs Public Library on Martha’s Vineyard. Budris previously was a reference librarian at the Edgartown Public Library.

Frederick Royce ’99LS has accepted a position at the Old Stone House Museum in Brownington, VT, as collections manager. He previously was assistant archivist at the Vermont Folklife Center.

Bethany Levrault ’00LS is cataloging coordinator for the Southwest Kansas Library System. She recently published an article in the Acquisitions Librarian, which also will appear in the book, Integrating Print and Digital Resources in Library Collections.

Tatyana Vervomenko ’00LS received a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of North Carolina. She earned her doctorate from Yesenin State Pedagogical University in Russia in 2005.

Anne Sauer ’01LS is the new director of digital collections and archives at Tufts University in Medford, MA.

Hope Beyer ’02LS has relocated to Lubbock, TX, where she is assistant librarian at Texas Tech University.

Jessica Joyal ’02LS is library services assistant at the Matthews-Fuller Health Sciences Library at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH.

Heidi Davis Marshall ’01LS, ’02LS is college archivist at Columbia College Chicago in Chicago, IL.

Deanna Large Varney ’02LS married Jim Varney in York Harbor, ME, this past summer. Her bridesmaids were Candice Sterckx ’01LS, Rebecca Weinberg Cuff ’02LS, Emily Thompson ’02LS, and Rebecca Eaton ’02LS. Mike Rush ’01LS, ’03LS was the DJ. Jessica Thomas ’01LS, Erica Wilder ’02LS, and Stacie Cohen ’02LS also attended.

Guy Wheaton ’02LS recently ascended the peak of Mt. Rainier in Washington state. Mt. Rainier is within 100 feet of being the highest peak in the lower 48 states and possesses its largest and most dangerous volcano. Wheaton trained for more than six months and

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has his sights set on Mt. Hood in OR and Mt. Shasta in CA next.

Devon Dawson ’03LS is archives consultant at Agilent History Center in Palo Alto, CA. The corporate archive includes the early history of the Hewlett Packard Corp. from the mid 1930s until Agilent's split from HP in 1999.

Mary Grein ’03LS is a senior reference librarian at Melrose (MA) Public Library.

Diane Sredl ’03LS is data reference librarian at the Harvard College Littauer Library in Cambridge, MA.

Giordana Mecagni ’04LS is working at the Countway Library on its Archives of Women in Medicine project.

Beatrice Pulliam ’04LS has been awarded the NEASIS&T 2005 Chapter Member of the Year Award. Pulliam is reference librarian at Providence College’s Phillips Memorial Library in Providence, RI.

Kelly Alice Robinson ’04LS recently accepted a position at the Christian Science Monitor in Boston as assistant librarian. Robinson previously was employed at CNN as a librarian.

Mary Searles ’04LS was appointed law librarian in New Hampshire’s Supreme Court. After working for eight years for the New Hampshire Bar Association, Searles joined the library in July 2004, and was appointed to her new post in May 2005.

Christi Showman ’04LS, youth services librarian at the Flint Memorial Library in Reading, MA, was awarded a Kay Bader Memorial Scholarship by the Massachusetts Library Association.

Gary Atwood ’05LS is reference librarian at Springfield (MA) College’s Babson Library.

Jane N. Cain ’05LS is the technology services supervisor at the Shrewsbury (MA) Public Library.

Danielle Conklin ’05LS recently accepted a position at Cumberland County Public Library in NC as information services librarian.

Lee Anne Hooley ’05LS is coordinator of the JSTOR archive project at the Harvard Depository in Cambridge, MA.

Tracy Sutherland ’05LS is the Amherst College Library's Fellow in Librarianship.

Editor’s Note: The Simmons Librarian will no longer publish the “In Memoriam” section in this newsletter. Death notices of GSLIS alumnae/i and faculty members will be published in each issue of Review as the College receives official notification.

GSLIS Alumni Day 2006

Save the date for the 2006 GSLIS Alumni and Professional Development Day, “Breaking the Librarian Paradigm: Tearing Down Self-Imposed Boundaries” Friday, April 7 at the Linda K. Paresky Conference Center at Simmons.

Keynote speakers are James F. Williams, II dean of libraries at the University of Colorado at Boulder; and Jessica McWade, a professional facilitator and leadership coach and president of The McWade Group.

For more information or to register, visit www.alumnet.simmons.edu.